

## ***Philip S. Thomas***

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Philip S. Thomas has worked in arts and culture for his entire professional career. He has worked exclusively in the field of producing, presenting, and touring the live performing arts. In addition, Philip has had a parallel focus on the training of young people in the performing arts disciplines of music, dance, drama, and musical theater.

As a result of his expertise and achievements, Mr. Thomas is recognized as a leader in the development and implementation of performing arts presentations, high quality theatrical events and community-based arts education programming by the New Jersey and national arts community, state and local government, and in the private sector.

Philip S. Thomas was the Executive Director of Newark Symphony Hall (May 2007-January 2012). Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall and was responsible for launching a revitalization effort to return the complex to its former role as a major venue for hosting and presenting a full range of music, dance and theater performances, and arts education programming. Newark Symphony Hall consists of the Sarah Vaughan Concert Hall (2,800 seats), Terrace Ballroom (1,000 seats), the Newark Stage (220 seats), and the Studio Theater (75 seats). Mr. Thomas provided oversight for the governance, human resource, finance, marketing, development, rental, programming, and capital operations of the venue.

Philip S. Thomas was the Vice President of Arts Education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (September 1992 - March 2005). NJPAC is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest performing arts center in the United States and consists of Prudential Hall (2,800 seats), the Victoria Theater (514 seats), the Chase Room (300 seats), and the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education - Black Box Theater (110 seats). Mr. Thomas joined NJPAC in 1992 as the Founding Director for Arts Education and was responsible for developing a Ten-Year Action Plan which served as the blueprint for a comprehensive Arts Education Department for NJPAC that includes a \$3.5 million annual budget and 18 full-time staff members. Mr. Thomas also served on the team responsible for the \$4.5 million renovation of the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education (a 29,000 sq. ft. facility dedicated to arts education).

In 1985, Mr. Thomas was Founder and Artistic Director of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation (CGWF), a non-profit multi-disciplinary arts organization located in Newark, New Jersey. The primary objective of CGWF was to increase performance opportunities, and earned income for African American theater, dance, music and literary artists by providing performance opportunities and marketing support. During his seven years of leadership, he administered Black Culture on Tour in America, which was a national touring program, OnStage in New Jersey which was a statewide performing arts series, and coordinated arts education programs in New Jersey local school districts.

In 1984, Mr. Thomas joined the staff of the Newark Public Schools as a Grants Analyst in the Division of Grants Development. His responsibilities included: researching government, foundation and corporate grant resources and priorities; writing grant proposals and applications; managing approved grant awards; and, preparing final narrative and budget reports.

Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall in 1982 as Director of Marketing. He held direct supervision over corporate special events, public relations, printed literature, press coverage, advertising and audience research. New projects introduced by Mr. Thomas included: the Friends of Newark Symphony Hall, Performance Time for Young People, annual celebrations in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month, and the Season Debut press and public relations event to announce the upcoming season of programs.

In 1980, Mr. Thomas was Founder of the Urban Arts Program and the Arts Development Services Programs for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, which provided management training and skills development opportunities for New Jersey arts organizations and individual artists.

In 1977, Mr. Thomas was Founder of the Greater Paterson Arts Council, a local non-profit arts organization located in Paterson, New Jersey that presented dance, theater, and music performances and provided technical assistance services to performing and visual artists.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Education:</b>        | Winthrop University                                                    | M.A. Degree in Arts Administration | 2017      |
|                          | Montclair State University                                             | B.A. Degree in Theater             | 1977      |
| <b>Military Service:</b> | United States Army                                                     | Vietnam Veteran                    | 1965-1967 |
| <b>Vietnam Veteran:</b>  | Mr. Thomas was the recipient of the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. |                                    |           |

### **Professional Employment**

|                                               |                                  |           |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Newark Symphony Hall, Newark                  | Executive Director               | 2007-2012 |
| Bergen Performing Arts Center (bergenPAC)     | Consultant                       | 2005-2006 |
| New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark     | Vice President of Arts Education | 1992-2005 |
| Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Newark          | President / Artistic Director    | 1985-1992 |
| Newark Public Schools, Newark                 | Grants Development Analyst       | 1984-1985 |
| Newark Symphony Hall, Newark                  | Director of Marketing            | 1982-1984 |
| New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Trenton | Arts Development Coordinator     | 1981-1982 |
|                                               | Urban Arts Coordinator           | 1980-1981 |
| Greater Paterson Arts Council, Paterson       | Executive Director               | 1977-1980 |

### **Consultant**

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ohio Arts Council                    | 1990-1992 |
| Pennsylvania Council on the Arts     | 1986-1990 |
| New Jersey State Council on the Arts | 1983-1989 |
| National Endowment for the Arts      | 1977-1987 |

### **Boards and Service**

|                                                                   |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Arts and Science Council (ASC) (Member - Advisory Committees)     | 2017-2023 |
| Leadership Newark (Selection Committee)                           | 1998-2009 |
| Education Law Center (Board of Directors)                         | 1999-2008 |
| Montclair State University - College of the Arts (Advisory Board) | 1998-2007 |
| New Jersey Black Issues Convention (Chair – Cultural Task Force)  | 1983-2006 |
| Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation (Education Advisory Board)          | 1999-2004 |
| New Jersey State Council on the Arts (State Commissioner)         | 1991-1994 |
| Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Board of Directors)    | 1991-1994 |
| Newark Arts Council (Board President)                             | 1991-1992 |
| Network of Cultural Centers of Color ( Board of Directors)        | 1989-1992 |
| Newark Boys Chorus School (Board of Directors)                    |           |
| Alliance for Arts Education – New Jersey (Board of Directors)     |           |
| New Jersey Institute for School Innovation (Board of Directors)   |           |

### **Awards and Recognition (Partial Listing)**

|                                                  |      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|
| Newark Boys Chorus – Parent Advisory Board Award | 2005 |
| WISOMMM Arts & Culture Award                     | 2004 |
| Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company                        | 2003 |
| New Jersey Tap Ensemble                          | 2003 |
| Union County Educational Services Foundation     | 2003 |
| NAACP Gold Life Membership                       | 2003 |
| Organization of African American Administrators  | 2003 |
| New Jersey State Legislature                     | 2003 |
| City of Newark - Community Service Award         | 2003 |
| Leadership New Jersey - Arts Leadership Award    | 2002 |

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Newark School of the Arts – Sweet Arts Award            | 1999 |
| 100 Most Influential in New Jersey                      | 1996 |
| WCBS-TV Fulfilling the Dream Award                      | 1995 |
| Leadership New Jersey (Fellow)                          | 1989 |
| National Endowment for the Arts - Fellowship            | 1976 |
| Frontiers International - Newark                        |      |
| Friends of Senator Wynona Lipman - Newark               |      |
| Jersey City Public Library - Community Awareness Series |      |
| Essex County Youth Advocate Program                     |      |
| Newark-West Ward Cultural Center                        |      |

### **Producer, Presenter, Program Development and Implementation (Partial Listing 1985 - 2012)**

#### **Newark Symphony Hall**

|                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Jazz Marathon                                               | 2008      |
| Children's Performing Arts Academy                          | 2008-2011 |
| Soul Line Dance Party                                       | 2009      |
| Reimagined: Newark Symphony Hall<br>Preservation Conference | 2010      |
| Rhoda Scott: Renowned Jazz Organist Concert Series          | 2011      |

#### **New Jersey Performing Arts Center**

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Verizon Passport to Culture - Performance Series        | 1997-2005 |
| Kwanzaa Festival and Marketplace                        | 1997-2004 |
| Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration            | 1998-2005 |
| Jazz for Teens - Music Education Program                | 1998-2005 |
| Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts         | 1998-2004 |
| Jeffrey Carollo Music Scholarship Fund                  | 1998-2005 |
| Summer Youth Performance Workshop                       | 1995-2005 |
| Summer Youth Musical Theater Productions                | 1998-2004 |
| <i>Carousel</i> (1998)                                  |           |
| <i>Oliver</i> (1999)                                    |           |
| <i>Brigadoon</i> (2000)                                 |           |
| <i>Once on this Island</i> (2001)                       |           |
| <i>South Pacific</i> (2002)                             |           |
| <i>West Side Story</i> (2003)                           |           |
| <i>Anything Goes</i> (2004)                             |           |
| Arts Academy Artists-In-The-Schools Program             | 1994-2005 |
| NJPAC Jubilation Choir                                  | 1998-2003 |
| NJPAC Jubilation Choir - CD Recording " <i>Spirit</i> " | 2002      |
| Youth Orchestra Festival and Workshop                   | 1998-2002 |
| Arts Basic to the Curriculum (ABC) Conference           | 1997-2002 |

#### **Carter G. Woodson Foundation**

|                                                     |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Artists-In-The-Schools Program                      | 1985-1992 |
| Black Culture on Tour in America                    | 1985-1992 |
| On Stage in New Jersey - Performance Series         | 1986-1992 |
| Expressions of Excellence - Conference and Showcase | 1992      |

### **Artists and Companies Presented (Partial Listing 1985 - 2012)**

#### **Dance (Partial Listing)**

Savion Glover  
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
American Ballet Theater (Studio Company)  
Momix

New Jersey Ballet  
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company  
Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco)  
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance  
Dinizulu African Dancers, Drummers and Singers  
Le Ballet Jazz de Montreal  
Paul Taylor Dance Company (Taylor 2)  
Muntu African Dance Theater of Chicago  
Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company  
UMOJA Dance Company  
New Jersey Tap Ensemble  
Deeply Rooted Dance Company  
Kankouran West African Dance Company  
Ko-Thi Dance Company  
Kule Mele African Dance and Drum Ensemble  
Lula Washington Dance Company  
Dallas Black Dance

**Literary Arts (Partial Listing)**

Sonia Sanchez  
Nikki Giovanni  
Maya Angelou  
Amiri and Amina Baraka  
Gwendolyn Brooks  
Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis  
Terri McMillan  
Mari Evans  
Haki Madhubuti

**Jazz (Partial Listing)**

Rufus Reid  
Carmen McRae  
James Moody  
Abbey Lincoln  
Kenny Garrett  
McCoy Tyner  
Bobby Hutcherson  
Roy Haynes  
Take 6  
Benny Golson  
Ron Carter

**Gospel (Partial Listing)**

Donnie McClurkin  
Vicki Winans  
Kurt Carr and the Carr Singers  
Darryl Coley  
Shirley Caesar  
Walter Hawkins  
Dorothy Norwood  
Cissy Houston  
Sweet Honey in the Rock  
Fisk Jubilee Singers  
Tramaine Hawkins  
Richard Smallwood

## **Artists and Companies Presented (Partial Listing 1985 - 2012)**

### **Latin (Partial Listing)**

Ray Barretto  
Eddie Palmieri  
Hilton Ruiz  
Manny Oquendo  
Herman Olivera  
Yomo Toro  
Los Pleneros de la 21

### **Theater (Partial Listing)**

Arts Power  
Pushcart Players  
Paper Bag Players  
The Acting Company  
National Theatre of the Deaf  
John Amos ("Halley's Comet")  
The Carpetbag Theater  
Theatre Sans Fil  
Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia  
National Black Touring Circuit  
Aquila Theater Company of London  
George Street Playhouse

### **Keynote Speakers (Partial Listing)**

Dr. Howard Gardner  
Dr. Leon Botstein  
Hon. John Lewis  
Hon. William Gray  
Johnetta Coles  
Rev. Bernice King  
Yolanda King  
Rev. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.  
Dr. Elliot Eisner  
Ossie Davis  
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi  
Dr. Kenneth Robinson  
Rev. Dr. Calvin O Butts, III  
Gwendolyn E. Boyd  
Molefi Kete Asante  
Jawanza Kunjufu  
Gil Noble  
Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker  
Rev. C.T. Vivian  
Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth  
Dorothy Cotton  
Paul Robeson, Jr.

(November 30, 2023)